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Maryland

FARM HANDBOOK

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**State and Federal  
Agricultural Services**

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • JUNE 1940

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Maryland

FARM HANDBOOK • 1940

State and Federal Agricultural Services

The Farm Handbook lists the agricultural services of the State of Maryland and the United States Government directly available to farmers.

Farmers are welcome at all times to write, telephone, or visit the office of the county agent for further information on any of the services listed in the Handbook. If the county agent cannot provide the service, he will advise where and how to get it. Farmers are also welcome at all times to write to the Extension Service, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.; or to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for further information on any agricultural subject.

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Agricultural Conservation Program



The Agricultural Adjustment Administration offers Maryland farmers a chance to cooperate with other farmers throughout the Nation to adjust production and conserve their soil.

Benefits of the 1940 Program

For cooperating fully in the 1940 program, the average Maryland farmer can—

Earn payment for adjusting the acreage of his special allotment crops. In Maryland, these include wheat, in all counties; potatoes, in Somerset and Worcester; and commercial vegetables, in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince Georges, Queen Annes, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester.

Earn payments to help him carry out soil-building practices on his farm.

Earn parity payments on wheat to supplement his income.

Obtain wheat loans as authorized by the law.

Obtain Federal Crop Insurance on his allotted acreage of wheat.

HOW TO ENTER THE PROGRAM

In order to enter the program obtain The Farm Plan for Participation in 1940 from the county AAA office and fill out and sign it. You may obtain these forms from the county AAA office, which is at the county agent's office, or from members of the community or county AAA committees. (See below.)

Community and County Committees

The AAA program in Maryland, as elsewhere, is handled in each county by local farmers, elected by their neighbors. In October, elections are held in each district for community committees, each committee having three members. Following these elections, in which all participating farmers may vote, each community sends a delegate to a county convention which elects the county committee. The county agent is usually secretary, and AAA business, in most Maryland counties, is handled at his office.

A participating farmer belongs to the county Agricultural Conservation Association. The association pays the county committeemen for the number of days they give to AAA work. Association expenses are deducted from the payments earned by participating farmers.

The county AAA committee makes the allotments for your farm on the advice of your community committee and later checks your performance before your payment is due.

If you wish to cooperate in the AAA program and are not satisfied with your allotments, you may make an appeal to the county committee, but you must do so within 15 days after you have been notified of your allotment. An appeal may be taken from the decision of the county committee to the State AAA committee and from the State committee to the regional director of the AAA.

Community meetings will be held where you may obtain further information.

Payment for Special Allotment Crops

A farmer who plants within his special allotments, for wheat, potatoes, or commercial vegetables, earns payment at a specified rate. (For counties in which special allotments apply, see first page.) These payments are subject to deductions if allotments are exceeded. Farmers are notified by their county Agricultural Conservation Association of their wheat acreage allotment sometime during July or August. The commercial vegetable and the potato allot-

ments are usually issued around January 1st. New wheat and potato growers, however, must apply to the county AAA office.

If You Have a Wheat Allotment—

Parity payments may be made provided you plant within your wheat allotment and comply generally with the program.

Total Soil-Depleting Allotment

For each farm there is a total soil-depleting allotment, including acreages of all soil-depleting crops. These include the special allotment crops plus general crops, such as corn, tobacco, peas for canning, oats, barley, rye, etc. This allotment is usually issued around January 1st. For exceeding the total soil-depleting allotment, deductions are made from any payment earned under the program. Truck or garden crops for home use are not classed as soil-depleting. Any farmer may grow up to three acres of commercial vegetables without deductions.

The farmer can use the land not planted to special or general crops for such purposes as growing soil-conserving crops for hay or pasture, harvesting hay or grass seed, plowing under green manure crops, growing certain emergency forages, and for summer fallow. Such practices may help the farmer earn the soil-building payments which are explained below. Others will protect the soil and in most cases provide feed or seed.

Nonwheat Allotment Option

Any farmer may plant up to 10 acres of wheat without deductions.

For the benefit of the farmer who is accustomed to use wheat as a green manure or cover crop, the nonwheat allotment option enables him to plant as much wheat as he wishes, provided he does not harvest more than his usual acreage. The difference may be used as pasture, cut green for hay, or plowed under as green manure. In this case, however, no wheat payment is earned under the conservation program. The farmer also

waives his parity wheat payment and will not be eligible for a wheat loan.

Wheat Loans

The wheat loan program is usually announced during June, when the rates and conditions under which wheat may be stored are given. To borrow on wheat, apply to the county AAA office sometime between July 1, and December 31. Wheat loans are intended to keep prices from falling too far, and to enable farmers to hold part of their crop off the market and to maintain the Ever-Normal Granary. Only farmers who plant within their wheat-acreage allotments are eligible for wheat loans.

Payments for Soil Building Practices

In addition to the allotment payments of various kinds, each farm has a separate allowance that may be earned by carrying out soil-building practices.

The soil-building payment is made for carrying out certain soil-building practices which you may select from an approved list. This list may include such practices as green manure, seeding alfalfa, sweet clover, red clover, or other legumes or grasses; applying limestone, or phosphate; terracing, strip-cropping, or farming on the contour as a protection against erosion; planting trees; and a wide variety of others adapted to the needs of various farming areas.

Under a new provision of the 1940 program, any farmer in Maryland is eligible to earn at least \$20.

Any farmer may earn \$30 by planting forest trees, or shrubs beneficial to wildlife, in addition to any other payments earned under the program. Credit for tree-planting is computed at the rate of \$1.50 per one-fifth acre.

See also Forestry and Wildlife.

Agricultural Education



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

THE agricultural college of the university is devoted especially to the agricultural industries and life of the State. Its four principal functions are as follows: (1) Instruction; (2) research; (3) extension, the rendering of assistance in the solution of farm and home problems; and (4) regulatory, the enforcement of those standards and control measures in agriculture which are deemed necessary for the common good.

Instruction at College Park

The college provides education for those who wish to engage in general farming, livestock production, some type of dairying, poultry husbandry, fruit or vegetable growing, floriculture or ornamental horticulture, field crop production, or in the highly specialized activities connected with these industries. It prepares men to serve as farm managers, for responsible positions as teachers in agricultural colleges or in departments of vocational agriculture in high schools, or as investigators in experiment stations, for extension work, for regulatory activities, for service in the United States Department of Agriculture, and for positions with commercial concerns related to agriculture. Its curricula in bacteriology, botany, entomology, food technology, genetics, statistics, and soil technology offer rich opportunities to the student with a scientific bent of mind, and may lead to positions in teaching, research, extension, and regulatory work.

Young men and women are given a basic general education while they are being instructed in the various branches of agriculture.

A catalog of the University of Maryland, including infor-

mation about the college of agriculture, will be sent on request to any farm family.

Research

Agricultural research covers a wide field of agricultural science, including many projects in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. (See Experiment Stations and Farms.)

Extension

The Extension Service maintains constant contact with the problems of farmers and their families in all parts of the State through the county agents, home demonstration agents, and specialists. The service operates in two ways: Problems confronting rural people are brought to the attention of research workers and their instructional staff, and results of research are taken to the farmers and their families in their home communities through practical demonstrations. The county agent and home demonstration agent are joint employees of county, State, and Federal Governments.

Regulatory Duties

For the regulatory and control work of the State board of agriculture, the college of agriculture, and other departments of the university see the subject headings in the Handbook.

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE

Evening Schools

At many high schools, evening schools are held for farmers by the Vocational Agriculture teacher. These schools begin usually around November 1.

There is no charge for attending the evening schools. They give you a chance to meet with your neighbors, compare notes, and learn many things worth knowing. For further information, ask your local vocational agriculture teacher.

Part-Time Schools

Besides the evening schools, part-time schools are held in many counties for young farmers aged 16 to 25. These usually start in October and operate on a year-round basis. There is no charge for attending.

The part-time schools are especially for the younger men who want to get established in farming and make good on the job. The class is taught by the vocational agriculture teacher of the local high school. For further information, ask him.

Day Schools

Farmers' sons may elect vocational agriculture courses as part of their high school education in most Maryland high schools. Each boy "learns through doing," being required to carry on a supervised farming program as a part of his studies. This is most appropriately and usually done on the home farm.

Community Service

The vocational agriculture teacher in your community is available for consultation at any time, whether or not you are enrolled in a vocational class. Consult him. He will be glad to put you in touch with the county agent, or Extension Service, or other agencies.

Princess Anne College

Princess Anne College, Princess Anne, Md., is the State institution offering a 4-year college education to Negro youth in agriculture and agricultural education, home economics and home economics education, mechanical arts and mechanical arts education, and a 2-year general college course in arts and sciences. A catalog will be sent on request to Princess Anne College, Princess Anne, Md.

Beekeeping



Clean-Up of Disease

Area clean-up of diseases of bees is progressing and is a service which beekeepers should use. To locate an apiary inspector for your region, ask the county agent or write the Beekeeping Specialist, Extension Service, College Park, Md.

Clinics and Schools

Where a sufficient number of beekeepers are interested, the specialist will hold bee culture night schools consisting of five or six evening lectures, followed by a beekeeper's clinic. There is no charge for attending. At the clinics, beekeepers are taught the diagnosis and control of American Foulbrood, each beekeeper receiving personal attention on his problem.

A smaller number of interested beekeepers can arrange for a cross-roads school, which lasts usually for a single afternoon. Consult your county agent, or write the Beekeeping Specialist, Extension Service, College Park, Md.

Pollination Service

The Extension Service conducts a pollination service to bring fruit growers and beekeepers together. A file lists the beemen wanting to rent colonies for orchard pollination and the fruit growers wanting to rent the bees. Write the Beekeeping Specialist, Extension Service, College Park, Md.

Publications

A monthly bee paper, *The Pollen Basket*, containing notices of meetings and other useful information, will be sent free on request to any Maryland beekeeper. Write the Beekeeping Specialist, College Park, Md.

For information on grades and trade-marks, see Marketing.

Buildings and Engineering



Farm Building Plans

At the office of his county agent or the local teacher of vocational agriculture, any farmer may examine, free of charge, the Building Plan Book with Maryland Supplement, which illustrate a variety of designs for all kinds of farm buildings—houses, barns, milk houses to meet legal requirements, silos, outbuildings of all kinds, cattle chutes, tobacco barns, poultry houses, storage houses, tennis courts, swimming pools, roadside stands, tourist cabins, etc.

Order plans through the county agent, or direct from the Extension Service, College Park, Md. They cost 15 cents a sheet.

The Building Plan Book may also be purchased at 30 cents, including the Maryland Supplement, through your county agent or by writing direct to the Extension Service.

Special plans for low-cost farm homes have been developed by the Farm Security Administration of the Department of Agriculture. These low-cost house plans cannot be sent direct to farmers from Washington. However, the University of Maryland can obtain them from the Department of Agriculture for distribution to farmers who request them. For further information about the low-cost house plans developed by the Farm Security Administration, write the Extension Service, College Park, Md.

Additional Information

The extension specialists in agricultural engineering will answer questions about the repair, modernization, and construction of farm buildings, water supply, light, use of electricity, ventilation, heating and plumbing, sewage disposal, fire prevention, drainage, etc., in person and by mail. Address Extension Service, College Park, Md., or ask your

county agent or home demonstration agent. If there is sufficient interest, they will arrange for meetings in your community to discuss these and related subjects.

Information will also be given when requested on the selection, use, and repair of farm machinery of all kinds. (For farm equipment loans, see Loans.)

Home Financing

The Government will aid farmers to finance home construction in several ways. Home-building loans may be obtained from the Farm Credit Administration through your local national farm loan association as explained under Loans.

Or, private loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration may be obtained for new building or repair. Under the law, the FHA will now insure loans for farm homes as well as city homes. Interest rates are low.

The Federal Housing Administration is not associated with the Department of Agriculture. Further information may be obtained by writing to the Federal Housing Administration, Washington, D. C.; or from a contractor, banker, or building and loan association in your community.

Publications

The Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., will send on request a free list of publications on plans and engineering services useful to farmers.

See also Rural Electrification; Drainage.



Canning Crops

The Extension Service will supply information on treating seed, transplanting, application of fertilizer, spraying and dusting, cultivation, harvesting, and marketing.

The county agent will also furnish information on where to locate high quality seeds, or on saving selected or certified seed.

Field demonstrations of superior varieties of peas, tomatoes, lima beans and other canning crops are held in many counties. Demonstrations are also conducted in control of insects and diseases.

Maryland canners frequently base their prices to farmers on the results of grading peas, tomatoes, and corn. The grading is done by Federal-State inspectors. For information on the inspection service write the Department of Markets, College Park, Md.

See also Seeds; Experiment Stations and Farms; Insect Control; and Plant Diseases.

Crop and Livestock Estimates



Estimates and forecasts are issued currently by the United States Department of Agriculture on all important Maryland crops and on livestock. Reports are usually on file in your county agent's office. Latest estimates may also be obtained free of charge by writing the Agricultural Statistician, College Park, Md.

The estimates include: Figures on acreage, yield, production, price, and value for all the principal crops; monthly forecasts during the growing season for many of these crops; and figures on livestock, numbers and production of meat animals, milk, eggs, and poultry. Extension Service also has current information on prices received by farmers, farm labor supply, employment, and wages, and, for some crops, on the quantity sold or otherwise utilized, and stocks on hand, for specified dates.

For many crops production is forecast far in advance of harvest or marketing. These forecasts are useful as a guide in planning future operations.

Crop Insurance

Apply for wheat crop insurance at the county AAA office during July, August, or September. Ample notice will be given of the time limit. You may insure 75 percent of the normal production on your wheat acreage allotment. Premiums may be paid either in cash or may be deducted from AAA payments. The insured wheat grower protects himself, regardless of crop-growing conditions.

Dairy



Dairy Herd Improvement Testing

By joining the local Dairy Herd Improvement Association, a dairy farmer can have periodic tests made of his cows at comparatively nominal cost. Thus he can weed out the cows that produce but little if any profit and check breeding progress. Ask your county agent.

Average production of milk and butterfat per cow tested in the associations is nearly double the average production for all cows milked in the State.

The Extension Service helps to provide testers for the associations, supervises their work, keeps records of production and other data, and supplies this information, together with advice on feeding and management, to members of the associations. The Bureau of Dairy Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., keeps a permanent record of all animals enrolled in association herds.

Breed Association Tests

Two forms of official testing, the advanced registry and herd test, are available for the breeding of registered dairy cattle. Advanced registry is selective testing—the breeder may select certain animals in his herd to put on test. With the herd test, the whole herd must be tested. Write the Dairy Specialist, Extension Service, College Park, Md., for information.

Breeding

The Extension Service assists dairy farmers in locating and obtaining the use of sires well adapted to their needs. Ask your county agent or write to the Extension Service, College Park, Md. There are breed associations representing each of the four principal breeds of dairy cattle.

A well-rounded breeders' program must include type improvement. A series of field days and shows are sponsored by all Maryland State Breed Associations. For information write the Dairy Specialist, Extension Service, College Park, Md.

Feeding

Feed production schools are held each winter in the various counties. Feeding information may be obtained from the county agent or Dairy Department, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

Purebred animals for breeding purposes may be imported into the United States duty free. For information, write the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Maryland regulations governing importing and exporting domestic animals may be obtained from the Livestock Sanitary Service, College Park, Md.

Further Information

Maryland farmers are welcome visitors at the United States Department of Agriculture laboratories at Beltsville. Groups of farmers may arrange through their county agent to be shown through the laboratories and experimental farms. The dairy herds will be shown and the results of experiments explained.

The Bureau of Dairy Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., will send on request a free list of dairy publications.

See Marketing and Crop Estimates.

Bang's Disease, Tuberculosis, etc.

See Livestock Sanitary Service.

Debt Adjustment

Debt adjustment service is available in every county through Farm Security Administration debt adjustment committees. A local debt adjustment committee meets with the debtor and his creditors. Although the committee has no legal authority to force an adjustment, they can often help the farmer and his creditors to work out a satisfactory agreement. All proceedings are held in strictest confidence.

For further information, consult your county agent or Farm Security supervisor.

See also Loans.



Drainage

On the Eastern Shore near Goldsboro, Vienna, Westover, and Powellville, in the counties of Queen Annes, Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester, CCC camps are restoring and repairing tax ditches. These camps work under the direction of the Soil Conservation Service. They are not bringing new land into cultivation but are working to save the land already in cultivation.

The CCC camps work only on public ditches which provide outlets for the private ditches and tile drains on individual farms. However, farmers anywhere in the State may obtain assistance in laying out and designing private drainage systems from the Extension Service specialists in agricultural engineering. Ask your county agent.

Soil conservation districts are also authorized to do drainage work.

See Soil Conservation Districts.

Experiment Stations and Farms



College Park

Maryland farmers are welcome to visit the State experiment station at College Park. They will be shown the experiments in which they are particularly interested. Bulletins describing the results of experiments may be secured on application.

Regional centers are maintained at:

Upper Marlboro, Prince Georges County, tobacco experimental plots. Studies in tobacco crops and soil management.

Princess Anne, Somerset County, fertilizer test plots.

Ridgely, Caroline County, variety and fertilizer tests, also canning and freezing tests of the leading canning crops.

In addition, smaller experiments are conducted on privately owned or leased farms and demonstration farms throughout the State.

Annual field days are held at the State Experiment Farms in Garrett and Worcester Counties, at which the results of the year's experiments are explained to farmers.

Beltsville

All farmers in Maryland are also welcome to visit the experiment farms and laboratories of the United States Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, only a few miles from College Park.

There is more at Beltsville than can be seen in one day. Before making the trip, it is advisable to write the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for a copy of the free booklet describing the farms and laboratories at Beltsville.

Regional Research Laboratory

At Wyndmoor, a suburb of Philadelphia, Pa., is the new Regional Research Laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture. Here new industrial uses are being developed for dairy products, tobacco, potatoes, fruits, and vegetables. Maryland farmers are welcome to visit this laboratory.

Farm Accounts

Farm account books and assistance in keeping them may be obtained from the county agent. The services of the Extension Farm Management Specialist are also available through the year to any farmer keeping an account book.

Farm Crops



On request to the county agent, or by writing direct to the Farm Crop Specialist, College Park, Md., assistance will be supplied on such problems as: Soil tests; recommended varieties; rates of seeding; inoculation of legumes; liming; recommended fertilizers; methods of cultivation; weed control; harvesting; marketing; storage; and cropping systems and rotations.

Bulletins on these and related subjects are available on request to the Extension Service, College Park, Md., and the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Demonstrations and field meetings on hybrid corn, alfalfa, pasture improvement and other subjects are held in many communities by the Extension Service. Ask your county agent.

See also the services listed in this book under the headings: Marketing, Seeds, and Soils.

Livestock-Feed Program

The Extension Service is conducting a livestock feeding and home-grown feed production program. Farmers in all counties may have the information on request to the county agent.

Pasture Improvement program

Soil-building payments are offered for various kinds of pasture improvement under the AAA program. These include reseeding, new seeding, application of superphosphate, lime, or potash, and contour farming on cropland.

The Extension Service has a State-wide pasture improvement program. Pasture demonstrations are conducted at various points.

Farm Labor



The Maryland State Employment Service maintains offices throughout the State for the purpose of finding employment for those persons desiring their assistance in securing work. There is no charge, either to employer or worker. Among the applicants are agricultural workers of all types and the employment service offers employers of farm labor assistance in securing the type of workers best qualified to fill their requirements. Full-time employment service offices are maintained at:

Annapolis, 221 Main Street, Annapolis 3331.

Baltimore, 39 Hopkins Place, Plaza 6060.

Cambridge, 101 Race Street, Cambridge 795.

Chestertown, 121 Court Street, Chestertown 381.

Cumberland, Public Safety Building, Cumberland 193.

Elkton, Courthouse, Elkton 381.

Frederick, Winchester Hall, Frederick 397.

Hagerstown, 18 W. Franklin Street, Hagerstown 2584.

Hyattsville, 120 Maryland Avenue, Greenwood 3570.

Oakland, McIntire Building, Oakland 273.

Salisbury, Gunby Building, Salisbury 222.

Silver Spring, County Building, Shepherd 6064.

Towson, 26 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Towson 1355.

Westminster, 10½ Liberty Street, Westminster 531.

A telephone call or personal visit to any of these offices will provide an easy method of solving your farm labor problem.

Forestry



Fire Control

In case of forest fire, call the nearest warden. In the back of each rural telephone directory is a list of fire wardens, or ask the operator.

Seedlings from State Nursery

Tree seedlings are sold for farm planting at cost or less.

Each fall the State forester mails a price list to farmers who have bought trees before. The price list and order blanks may be obtained at the county agent's office. You can order these trees and plant them to earn an AAA soil-building payment (see below).

AAA Tree-Planting Payment

Any Maryland farmer may earn a special, extra payment up to \$30 in 1940 by successfully planting forest trees, in addition to any other payments earned under the AAA program. Credit is computed at the rate of \$1.50 per one-fifth acre. For appraised thinning of young stands, payment of \$1.50 per one-half acre may be earned. Although the trees may be furnished under the Clarke-McNary law, to earn the payment the farmer must bear the expense of planting them.

See your county agent or AAA committee regarding the necessary prior approval.

Farm Woodlot Management

The extension or district foresters will on request advise any Maryland farmer on the planting, thinning or management of woodlots, and on marketing, etc. Ask your county agent. Useful publications on farm woodlot management are available on request from the United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

The State maintains several hundred management demonstrations throughout the State.

In 1940, Federal-State demonstration projects were also planned for Maryland. When established, a farmer living within one of these forest demonstration projects may be able to get a detailed management and conservation plan for his woodlot and his entire farm by applying to the project forester, county agent, or, if in a soil conservation district, to the board of supervisors.

Timber Estimate

On request to the State forestry department at Baltimore, a State forester will cruise your timber, estimating what can be taken out without damage to the woodlands. A charge is made for this service. He will also supply a list of prospective purchasers of timber.

State Forests

There are no national forests in Maryland. However, there are 64,291 acres of State forests. In the State forests, and in the 2,932 acres of State parks, there are free camp and picnic grounds, and in some cases hunting and fishing. Address the State Forestry Department, Baltimore, Md., for further information.

4-H Clubs



Every boy or girl in rural Maryland between the ages of 10 to 20 is welcome to join a 4-H Club. There are clubs for boys and girls in every county. There are also clubs for colored boys and girls, in southern Maryland and on the southern part of the Eastern Shore.

The 4-H's are the Head, the Heart, the Hand, and Health. The motto for club work is, "Make the Best Better," which means constant improvement in ways of doing things.

Each enrolled member is required to carry out a demonstration of an approved practice in agriculture, home economics, or related home, farm, or rural community activity, under guidance of a competent leader. A record must be kept of the work and a report made to the county or home demonstration agent.

Among the most popular 4-H Club projects in Maryland are dairy, livestock, poultry, conservation, farm mechanics and electricity, accounts, clothing, foods, gardening, home and room improvement, etc.

Club activities include achievement days, tours, public demonstrations, exhibits, camps, picnics, banquets, and the like.

For further information, ask your county agent or home demonstration agent.

Fruits



The Extension Service will supply information on all phases of fruit growing, such as varieties of the different kinds of fruits, planting, fertilizing, cover crops, spraying, pruning, thinning, and marketing. Demonstrations of approved methods and meetings are held in the fruit-growing counties. See your county agent, or write to the Extension Horticulturist at College Park, Md.

Growers of strawberry plants can have them inspected for disease without cost.

An experimental and demonstration planting of all available and adapted varieties of black and red raspberries is maintained in the section of Western Maryland where these crops are grown principally. See your county agent, or write to the Extension Specialist in Horticulture, College Park, Md.

Publications on growing tree fruits and small fruits are free on request to the Extension Service and Experiment Station, College Park, Md., and to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

For information on recommended soil conservation practices and the rates of payment that can be earned by carrying out such practices under the AAA program in Maryland, see your AAA committeeman, county agent, or write to the extension specialist in horticulture, College Park, Md.

Spray Service

During January and February, the Extension Service distributes a spray calendar which tells the best kinds and amount of spray to use and the best time to spray. Spray cards are also mailed to growers by the county agent as reminders. If you do not get your spray calendar or spray cards, ask the county agent to place you on the list. There is no charge for this service.

Spray Residue Analysis

Samples of apples from all commercial orchards are taken by the Department of Markets of the Extension Service, College Park, Md. They are analyzed and reports sent back to the growers. Any grower of apples for the market may obtain this service free of charge on request to the Department of Markets, College Park, Md.

See also Marketing; Insects; and Plant Diseases.

For pollination service, see Beekeeping.

Gardens

For information on adapted varieties of vegetables to be grown commercially, cultural methods, etc., see your county agent, or write to the extension specialist in gardening, College Park, Md.

See also Marketing; Insect Control; and Plant Diseases.

For help in planning the home garden, see your county agent or home demonstration agent, or write the extension gardening specialist. Useful publications on home gardens are available from the county agent, the Extension Service, College Park, Md., or the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Home gardens are exempt from the soil-depleting allotment of the AAA.

See your home demonstration agent or write the extension specialist in ornamental gardening for help in improving your home grounds, school grounds, or other public community grounds.

See also Homemaking.

Homemaking

For information on all kinds of problems connected with rural homes and home life, consult your home demonstration agent, or write direct to the Extension Service, College Park, Md.

The home demonstration agent will help—

- In planning meals to improve the health and disposition of the whole family;
- In saving money and keeping home expense accounts;
- In planning economical and stylish clothing for the whole family;
- In making homes more attractive at little or no expense;
- In buying wisely;
- In flowers and home ground improvement and vegetable gardens;
- In home canning;
- In weaving, making pottery, etc.;
- In butter and cheese making, etc.;
- In poultry raising.

Homemakers' Clubs

In many communities the home demonstration agent conducts homemakers' clubs, for all women who want to join. If there is no club near you, you can still consult the agent on any homemaking problem.

The homemakers' clubs help their members to get more satisfaction out of life. Some of their activities are:

- County choruses and glee clubs;
- Rural art exhibits;
- Tours of farm women to historic homes and churches, and to flower gardens and other points of interest and education;
- Flower shows and garden schools;
- Plant and seed exchanges;
- Style shows;
- Home reading and rural libraries.

The Short Course

Every year, in June, a rural women's short course is held at the university in College Park, lasting a week. Any farm woman is invited to attend. The costs are moderate and often special transportation rates are offered. Ask your home demonstration agent.

Service of Specialists

Specialists from the university help farm women with their homemaking problems. When the engineering specialist is in your county, for example, he will help with the repair of household appliances like sewing machines, electric irons, etc. Information on lawns, trees, and shrubs, locating walks and drives, outdoor fireplaces, lily pools, rock gardens, etc., may be obtained from the extension landscaping specialists when they are in your county. Keep in touch with home demonstration work in order to know when the extension specialists are coming.

Useful bulletins on food, clothing, and homemaking are available free on request to the Extension Service, College Park, Md., and to the Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

For Farm Security Borrowers

Families in Maryland who get rehabilitation loans from the Farm Security Administration (see Loans) agree to follow a farm and home plan. The FSA has a staff of supervisors in Maryland to help a family which borrows with its home-making problems.

If your family has an FSA loan, you can call or write to your nearest FSA supervisor for information and help when you need it.

Of course, FSA borrowers are also welcome to call on the home demonstration agent in their county for information, like anyone else. Sometimes the home demonstration agent and the FSA supervisor hold meetings together.

Information



Information for the farmer on any kind of problem is as close as his telephone or mail box. Write or telephone your county agent. If he does not have the answer to your question, he will tell you where to find it.

Any farmer is also welcome to write direct to the State Extension Service, College Park, Md., or to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for agricultural information of any kind.

Publications

There are two kinds of free publications for Maryland farmers, State and Federal. Both may be obtained through your county agent. Or, to obtain a State publication, write direct to the Extension Service at College Park, Md., and to obtain a Federal publication, write to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Every member of a farm family can profit by using some of these publications. They cover every topic mentioned in this book and many more besides.

Group Discussions

In many communities, discussion groups meet once a month at the home of one of their members to exchange information and ideas. Material for the discussions is supplied by the Extension Service and the Department of Agriculture.

If you are interested in helping to organize a discussion group in your community, get in touch with the county farm agent. On request, the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., will send information on discussion groups.

Radio Programs

National Farm and Home Hour—WBAL, Baltimore, daily 12:30–1:15 p. m. (including market news highlights).

Homemakers' chats—WFMD, Frederick; WJEJ, Hagerstown; WFAL, Salisbury; WTBO, Cumberland; usually during forenoon; inquire of local stations for exact time.

For radio market news, see Marketing.

Insect Control



If you find an insect and do not know what it is, take it to the county agent's office, or send it direct to the Department of Entomology, College Park, Md. They will tell you what it is and what to do. If possible, also send a sample of the damage in a tin box or other container that will not crush in the mail.

For every important insect pest on Maryland farms whether in the field or in the home, there is a remedy of some kind, and a useful free bulletin can be obtained from your county agent. Or write to the Extension Service, College Park, or the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Lecturers and Consultants

Lecturers from the university on request will give talks before organizations or groups on various topics of insect control, such as the Japanese beetle, mosquitoes, garden, orchard and household pests. Consultants are available at no cost on individual and community problems of insect control.

Nursery and Greenhouse Stock

See the county agent or write the State Horticultural Department, College Park, for inspection of plants before shipping, to comply with the law. Nursery and greenhouse operators are invited to consult their county agent or the Extension Service, College Park, on any problems of insect or disease control.

Land Use Planning



In each county men, women, and older youth have been elected to serve with the county agent and other officials on a new kind of committee. This committee is called the Agricultural Land Use Planning Committee. It is separate from the AAA committee.

The Land Use Planning Committee studies all the local agricultural problems, such as soil erosion, relief, tenancy, roads, crop rotation, and other things which concern farmers and their families. Therefore the Land Use Planning Committee includes the local agents of the Farm Security Administration, Soil Conservation Districts, the county AAA chairman, etc. Community land use planning committees will also take part in this work.

The conclusions of the land use committees are discussed in open meeting to which all are invited. Thus through these committees every farm family has a voice in planning what all the public agricultural agencies will do in his community in the future. All county plans are forwarded to the State land use planning committee.

For more information about the land use planning program, see your county agent or write to the State representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at College Park, Md.

Livestock



Information is available from the Extension Service and demonstrations are held on problems of breeding, feeding, and management of beef cattle, draft horses, sheep, and swine. Consult your county agent or write the Extension Service, College Park, Md.

There are two State-wide cattle breeders' associations, three horse breeding associations, and two swine breeders' associations in Maryland. There are also local associations in most counties. The Extension Service assists in locating and obtaining the use of breeding stock. Beef cattle feeding schools and feed production schools are held each year in various parts of the State. Horse breeding, feeding, management, judging and fitting demonstrations are conducted. Demonstrations are held in shearing, docking and castrating, dipping and drenching, judging and selection of breeding sheep. Feeding and management meetings are held. Hog breeding, feeding and management information is also available from your county agent or Extension Service, College Park, Md.

Maryland Regulations, etc.

Purebred animals for breeding purposes may be imported into the United States duty free. For information, write the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Information on Maryland regulations governing the importing and exporting of domestic animals will be supplied by the Livestock Sanitary Service.

Further Information

Maryland farmers are welcome visitors at the United States Department of Agriculture laboratories at Beltsville, and at the Experiment Station at College Park. Groups of

farmers may arrange, through their county agent, to be shown through the laboratories and experimental farms. The livestock herds will be shown and the results of experiments explained.

Write the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for a free list of livestock publications.

Prevention of Disease

See Livestock Sanitary Service.

Livestock Sanitary Service



Assistance in controlling disease in livestock or poultry is furnished free of charge by the Livestock Sanitary Service laboratories. The laboratories are located at 621 West Lombard Street, Baltimore; Courthouse, Salisbury; County Building, Centerville; University of Maryland, College Park. In sending specimens to be tested for pullorum disease of poultry, be sure that the specimen is well preserved as little can be done with decomposed matter. Send a letter also giving all possible information about the case. (See also Poultry.)

Specimens to be tested for diseases of livestock are constantly passing through the laboratories. Consult your local veterinarian or county agent in regard to this service.

Bang's Disease and Tuberculosis

All herds must be tested for tuberculosis before selling milk, and Baltimore and Washington now require herds to be free from Bang's disease, if raw milk is sold. Tests for these diseases are made by accredited veterinarians, or by official veterinary inspectors. Consult your veterinarian, county agent, or write the Livestock Sanitary Service. Cattle herds are tested for tuberculosis and Bang's disease at no charge until a herd becomes accredited; thereafter, a small charge is made. Blood samples are tested at the laboratories for Bang's disease.

Indemnities

An indemnity, provided jointly by the State and Federal Government, is paid farmers on those animals which react to tuberculosis and Bang's disease tests. In no case does the total indemnity exceed two-thirds the difference between the appraised value and the salvage value. The maximum total indemnity on grades is \$50, and on purebreds, \$100.

Other Services

A wide range of services is offered by the Livestock Sanitary Service laboratories including tests for rabies, pregnancy tests in mares, tests for anthrax, mastitis, blackleg, encephalomyelitis of horses, etc. Assistance is furnished in combatting hog cholera.

A prompt diagnosis and control of the various infections protect not only the health of livestock but in many cases safeguard human health.

Information on Maryland regulations governing the importing and exporting of domestic animals will be supplied by the Livestock Sanitary Service.

Loans



A complete list of Federal credit services is now available through the United States Department of Agriculture.

Mortgage Loans (Federal land bank and Land Bank Commissioner)

Federal land bank loans may be obtained through your local national farm loan association. A borrower must buy stock in the association, equal to 5 percent of his loan. Loans usually are made for 20 to 30 years with a contract interest rate of 4 percent (February 1940) and are repaid in semiannual installments. When the loan is paid in full your stock is retired, and if it is unimpaired you get back the money for your shares at par value.

A second type of mortgage loan is the Land Bank Commissioner loan. No stock purchase is necessary in obtaining a commissioner loan. A commissioner loan may be made on a second as well as a first mortgage, and may be in addition to a first mortgage Federal land bank loan. The contract interest rate is 5 percent.

The secretary-treasurer of your local National Farm Loan Association can explain both types of loans, and applications should be submitted through him. One appraisal may do for both. If there is no National Farm Loan Association near you, write the Federal Land Bank, Baltimore, Md., or see your country agent.

Short-Term Loans for Productive Purposes (Production Credit Associations)

Short-term loans are obtained from your nearest local production credit association. No loan may be for less than \$50. Crop loans are generally repaid in 6 to 10 months. Loans to dairymen are generally for 1 year with renewals of

unpaid balances when repayments and other credit factors are satisfactory. Interest rates are kept as low as possible, at present (February 1940) 4½ percent. Borrowers from production credit associations, like those from national farm loan associations, become members of the association by purchasing stock. Production credit loans are for all necessary farm operating expenses and the purchase of equipment for both the farm and household. Further information may be obtained from your local production credit association, from the Production Credit Corporation, Baltimore, Md., or from your county agent.

Emergency Crop and Feed Loans

Emergency crop and feed loans are available to Maryland farmers whose cash requirements are small and who cannot obtain a loan from any other source, including production credit associations, banks, or other private concerns or individuals. These loans are made by the Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Section of the Farm Credit Administration. If you cannot obtain a loan from the production credit association, bank, or other source, write the Emergency Crop and Feed Loan Office, Farm Credit Building, Baltimore, Md., or see your county agent.

The money loaned is limited to the applicant's necessary cash needs in preparing and cultivating his year's crops or in purchasing or producing feed for his livestock. Borrowers must give as security a first lien on the crop financed or on the livestock to be fed. Interest rate is 4 percent.

Loans to Farmers' Cooperatives

Any farmers' cooperative desiring information about loans should write the Bank for Cooperatives, Baltimore, Md. The Farm Credit Administration, Washington, D. C., will also supply information needed in forming and operating a successful farm cooperative.

Rehabilitation Loans (Farm Security Administration)

Rehabilitation loans are made by the Farm Security Administration to farmers who need seed, tools, livestock, and other equipment necessary to carry on farming operations, and who cannot get adequate credit elsewhere. Every borrower must own or rent land, which will support his family and produce enough income to repay the loan. Loans are repayable over a period of from 1 to 5 years, at 5 percent interest. The borrower signs a note, secured by a mortgage on livestock, machinery, and crops. Each borrower agrees to follow a sound farm-and-home management plan, which he works out with the rural rehabilitation supervisor. Apply to the Farm Security supervisor nearest you. Ask your county agent. If the nearest Farm Security supervisor lives outside your county, write to him, explaining your case, and if necessary he will visit you at your home. Further information may be obtained from the Farm Security Administration, Washington, D. C.

Tenant Purchase Loans (Farm Security Administration)

Tenant purchase loans during 1940 will be made only to tenants who are residents of the following counties: Queen Annes, Charles, Frederick, Worcester, Calvert, Caroline, Kent, and Washington. Only a limited number of such loans can be made, even in these counties. Apply to the Farm Security supervisor nearest you. If the nearest Farm Security supervisor lives outside your county, write to him, explaining your case, and if necessary he will visit you at your home. Tenant purchase committees, consisting of three farmers, decide what applicants shall receive loans, on a basis of character, ability, and farming experience. The loans are large enough to enable the borrower to buy a farm and if necessary to repair the buildings or put up new ones. Loans are repayable over a period of 40 years at 3 percent interest. No down payment is required, but loans are to those unable to get adequate credit elsewhere.

Group Loans for Equipment or Services
(*Farm Security Administration*)

The Farm Security Administration will make loans to groups of farmers having small incomes to buy equipment or services such as a tractor, work stock, combine, purebred sires, veterinary services, spraying equipment, and other things which farmers cannot often afford to own alone. Before the loan is made, each member of the group signs an agreement, showing how much he will pay for his part of the use of the equipment or service. Apply to the Farm Security supervisor nearest you. If the nearest Farm Security supervisor lives outside your county, write to him, explaining your case, and if necessary he will visit you at your home.

Wheat Loans

See Agricultural Conservation Program.

Rural Electrification Loans

See Rural Electrification.

Marketing



Market News

Market news covering price and market conditions is issued from day to day by the United States Department of Agriculture for more than 100 farm products. It is published in local newspapers and broadcast over the radio.

On request, Maryland farmers will be placed on the mailing list for market news about the crops in which they are interested. For market news of fruits and vegetables, write or telephone Market News Service, United States Appraisers Stores Building, Gay and Lombard Streets, Baltimore, telephone Plaza 8460. On the Eastern Shore, write or telephone Market News Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Peninsular Building, Pocomoke, Md. For market news of livestock meats, and wool, write or telephone Market News Service, Claremont Hotel, Union Stockyards, Baltimore. Telephone Gilmore 5883.

To be placed on the mailing list for other products, ask your county agent or write or telephone direct to the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Market news is obtained at terminal markets and shipping points and from producing sections all over the country. It covers the movement, market supplies, quality, and prices of livestock, meats, wool, fruits, vegetables, dairy and poultry products, grains, hay, seeds, feedstuffs, cotton and cotton seed, tobacco, rice, honey, and miscellaneous products.

See also Crop Estimates.

Federal-State Grading and Inspection

A joint Federal-State grading service is available for all Maryland farmers and handlers of apples, peaches, tomatoes, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, cannery tomatoes, cannery peas,

cannery corn, eggs and poultry, and most other farm products.

Farmers can get better prices by growing and packing according to grade and selling to standard. Ask your county agent. He has a full file of the Federal grades and of market news reports, and can refer you to the nearest grading station for your product.

For Egg Marketing, see Poultry.

Maryland Grades

If there is sufficient demand from the growers, the Department of Markets is authorized to set up grades and standards for Maryland fruits and vegetables. The Department is also authorized to inspect and issue State grade certificates on any farm product on request.

State grading protects those products which do not leave the State. It also protects those products to which the Federal grades do not apply. For further information, address the Department of Markets, College Park, Md.

Cantaloupe Inspection

On request to the Department of Markets, cantaloupes will be tested for maturity in compliance with the law. Spray residue analysis will be made on request for vegetables as well as for fruits.

For further information on these subjects, address the Department of Markets, College Park, Md.

Trade-Marks

The Department of Markets is authorized to procure a State trade-mark for any Maryland farm product and permit its use under the rules and regulations of the State board of agriculture. Any grower or group of growers interested in obtaining a trade-mark should apply to the Department of Markets, College Park, Md.

Surplus Commodities

Federal programs to reduce surpluses of farm products include the food stamp plan which operates through the

grocery stores; and direct Government purchases for distribution to needy families and for free school lunches for undernourished children. Your county agent can supply further information.

Marketing Agreements

Selling conditions for fruits, vegetables, and dairy products may be improved through marketing agreement programs under which the handling of specified agricultural commodities may be regulated. The programs operate through marketing agreements and orders issued by the Secretary of Agriculture under certain conditions of approval by producers and handlers.

Marketing agreement programs for milk establish minimum producer prices according to the classified uses made of the milk received by handlers, and provide for a method under which handlers are required to pay producers for their milk. Such a program for the Washington, D. C., milk marketing area went into effect February 1, 1940.

Marketing agreement programs for commodities in the fruit and vegetable field are designed to aid producers and handlers in adjusting shipments for a producing area more nearly in line with market requirements. The programs provide for regulating shipments on the basis of volume, grade, or size of a commodity shipped out of the producing area during any given period.

Any groups of producers or handlers of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products who are interested in developing a marketing agreement program should first see their county agent, who can supply further information and advise what must be done.

Marketing Quotas

In 1939 there were no marketing quotas in Maryland. However, the Federal law provides that when the United States wheat supplies for any year are over a level which is about a billion bushels, marketing quotas can be used to keep

some of this wheat from being dumped on the market. Before this quota can be applied, farmers must vote for it in a referendum. If a national marketing quota should be voted for wheat a penalty would be levied on wheat sold in excess of the quota. However, it would not apply to a farm with a normal production of less than 100 bushels.

Negro Work

Services described in this book are available to Negro farmers and their families. In addition, in the counties of southern Maryland, and southern Eastern Shore, there are local agents for Negro work to assist the county agent and special Negro home demonstration agents. There is also a Negro farm security home supervisor for southern Maryland.

For information on Princess Anne College, see Agricultural Education.

Plant Diseases

If some disease has attacked a plant and you do not know what it is, take a sample to the county agent's office or send it direct to the Department of Pathology, College Park, Md. They can tell you what it is and what to do. If you notice a new weed or other plant and do not know what it is, bring or send a sample and they will identify it for you.

Plant disease should be treated in the earliest stage. Notify your county agent immediately if you notice anything wrong with field, garden, or orchard crops. Consult him on your spraying and dusting problems. (See also Seeds and Fruits.)

For free bulletins on plant diseases, write to the Extension Service, College Park, Md., or the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Poultry



Information on all phases of poultry breeding, feeding, management and marketing is available to all producers. Ask your county agent, or write the Extension Service, College Park, Md. Where a sufficient number is interested, Extension Service poultry specialists hold meetings and demonstrations in local communities. Farm egg and poultry record books are available free of charge at the county agent's office, for farmers who will agree to use them.

Maryland Poultry Plan

The Maryland poultry improvement plan, which began in 1935, is part of a national plan for better poultry and eggs and more income for producers.

The hatcheryman or flock owner may join the plan by sending in an application to the Poultry Department, College Park, Md. Ask your county agent.

Breeders are chosen yearly by flock-selecting agents and are inspected by State inspectors. Poultry improvement schools are held annually at various points in the State to qualify flock owners as flock-selecting agents. Ask your county agent for further information.

There are five successive breeding stages in the plan, each higher than the one before. You can show an official label for each breeding stage. The stages are called U. S. Approved, U. S. Verified, U. S. Certified, U. S. Record of Performance, and U. S. Register of Merit. Lists of flocks and hatcheries qualifying under the plan are available from the Extension Service, College Park, Md.

Prevention of Disease

All chickens to be retained as breeders may be tested annually for pullorum disease by an official tester, at a charge which is less than cost. Ask your county agent.

If you have sickness of any kind in your flocks, bring or send one of the sick birds to the nearest laboratory. If it is necessary to bring or send dead birds, get them to the laboratory as soon as possible. After they have begun to decay it may be too late to find out anything.

The laboratories are in the basement of the Courthouse, Salisbury; County Building, Centerville; 621 West Lombard Street, Baltimore; and the main laboratory at College Park, Md.

Marketing

Better prices are usually offered for graded eggs and poultry than for ungraded. At Baltimore (Fidelity Building, Charles and Lexington Sts.) and at Washington, D. C., egg grading stations are maintained where eggs can be brought in by producers to be Federal-State graded and payment made according to grade. Ask your county agent, or write or telephone the Department of Markets, College Park, Md. In 1940 eggs were also bought according to grade at Bel Air and Cardiff, and egg marketing cooperatives were in operation at Hyattsville and Westminster.

Maryland turkey growers have organized a plan for marketing dressed turkeys. For further information, consult your county agent or write the Extension Service, College Park, Md.

In September each year a poultry products marketing school is held at the university for producers.

Relief

Relief in Maryland is handled by the county welfare office, usually located in the courthouse.

At the county welfare office, information is also available on the WPA, on joining the Civilian Conservation Corps, and on the National Youth Administration.

National Youth Administration

There are local NYA projects for farm youth aged 18-24, inclusive, in almost every county. Ask the county welfare office or county agent, or write to the State Administrator, 1712 Park Avenue, Baltimore. The National Youth Administration is not connected with the Extension Service or the Department of Agriculture.

Farm Security Administration

See Loans.

Rural Electrification



How To Get Electricity

There are three sources of high-line electric power for Maryland farmers: private utilities, municipal plants, and cooperatives financed by the Rural Electrification Administration of the Department of Agriculture.

The Rural Electrification Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture makes loans to groups of farmers for the construction and initial operation of rural electric power lines to reach people not now served by electricity. Before a loan can be made, there must be a good prospect that that line will be a financial success. Ask your county agent for further information or write direct to the Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D. C. No loans are made to individuals by the REA. However, members of an REA-financed cooperative may borrow from the cooperative to finance wiring and plumbing installations.

Before the Lines Are Built

Regardless of where you plan to secure the current, while the power lines are being built the Extension Service or REA on request will supply information on adequate wiring for future satisfaction, and on lighting and equipment for home and farm. Ask your county agent. If a sufficient number are interested, meetings and demonstrations will be held in your community by the specialists in agricultural engineering.

After You're Hooked Up

Electricity has many profitable uses on Maryland farms. After you have secured service, further information will be supplied on the selection, operation, and repair of equipment for home and farm use.

Meetings will be held for interested groups of farmers on request.

Seeds

Certified Seed and New Varieties

By purchasing certified seed you are sure of having seed free from disease and true to type. Your county agent will supply a list of good seed growers and will assist in obtaining certified seed. The specialists in various lines inspect crops and seeds, and if they are up to standard the grower may have his products officially sealed and certified for a small fee.

Your county agent will advise on the new varieties and where to obtain them. The United States Department of Agriculture does not have seeds for free distribution.

State Seed Laboratories

The State seed laboratory at College Park will examine for quality, free of charge, any seed sent them by a Maryland farmer. The sample sent should be typical of the entire lot in every way. For seed the size of red clover seed, send at least a cupful; for seed the size of wheat, send at least a quart.

The seed laboratory will determine the plant-producing capacity of the seed and will advise as to the seeding rate.

Seed-Cleaning Machines

Portable seed-cleaning machines in 1940 were operated in several counties to clean and treat small grain and clover seed.

Soil Conservation Districts

To control erosion thoroughly, the farmers in the watershed must get together. For this purpose, soil conservation districts may be organized under State law. Soil conservation districts are not connected with the AAA. However, a farmer may cooperate in both programs, if he wishes.

By February 1940 there were five conservation districts in Maryland, including more than one-fifth of the land area of the State. These districts and their headquarters are as follows: Kent, Chestertown; Catoctin, Frederick; Gunpowder Falls, Bel Air; Monocacy, Westminster; Washington, Hagerstown.

To Organize a District

Any 25 or more farmers in Maryland may petition the State soil conservation committee at College Park, Md., to form a soil conservation district. If the petition is granted, an election will be held of all the farmers in the watershed. The district will not be organized unless a majority vote for it. A local board of supervisors is then formed, and a CCC camp may be located in or near the district to help farmers who join the district with their conservation work. WPA workers may also be available. All the farmers in the district may join if they wish. If they join, they sign an agreement with the local supervisors to carry out a complete farm plan. This plan may include such practices as contour cultivation, strip-cropping, terracing, and others as may be needed to protect their own soil and their neighbors' soil. For further information, consult the county agent.

Note.—You cannot earn a soil-building payment from the AAA if all or most of the work is done by the CCC camp or WPA. It is only where the farmer does all or most of the labor and buys all or most of the materials that he can earn an AAA payment. For details, ask

your AAA committee, county agent, or soil conservation district headquarters.

If you belong to a soil conservation district and are also in the agricultural conservation program, the AAA soil-building practices will help to carry out the farming plan which you signed with the district. The farm plan will help you to earn the AAA soil-building payments.

See also Agricultural Conservation Program; Farm Crops; Forestry; and Wildlife.

Soils

The county farm agent will make simple tests of soil if a sample is brought to his office. He can tell whether or not the soil is acid and needs lime, etc.

If a sample is sent to the experiment station at College Park, Md., a complete analysis and recommendation will be made for the use of fertilizers and general soil management.

A county soil survey map is on file at the county agent's office.

See also Farm Crops.

Tobacco

Information on crop rotations, cover cropping, soil tests for tobacco farms, seed beds, fertilizer treatment, types and varieties of tobacco, harvesting, curing, stripping and sorting, and marketing is available on request to your county agent, or write to the Extension Service, College Park, Md.

Tobacco seed will be cleaned and tested at the State seed laboratory, College Park, Md., free of charge. Neighborhood meetings are held in tobacco counties to learn what material and equipment to use in checking diseases and insects. Tobacco method and result demonstrations are held frequently. Tours are held each year.

A cooperative marketing association is maintained by the farmers of southern Maryland, with headquarters at Baltimore. In addition to the Baltimore hogshead market, where free storage is available, auction markets will be held in 1940 in Hughsville, Upper Marlboro, and perhaps at La Plata.

Weather

Weather reports are published in the newspapers and broadcast over the radio beginning with the daily forecast at breakfast time and continuing through the day. Weekly crop bulletins will be sent on request to the United States Weather Bureau office, Customhouse, Baltimore, Md. Publications on Maryland climate are also available on request to this office.

Wildlife

For information on protecting and increasing wildlife on farm property, write the State Game Warden, Munsey Building, Baltimore, Md.

County wildlife advisory councils have been organized consisting of farmers and representatives of sportsmen's organizations, with the county agent an ex officio member.

Wild game is released and streams are stocked with fish by the State authorities where coverts and stream conditions are suitable.

AAA soil-building payments may be earned for planting shrubs beneficial to wildlife at the rate of \$1.50 per one-fifth acre.

Soil conservation districts will also supply information on planting for wildlife cover and food. (See Soil Conservation Districts.)

Useful publications on wildlife on farms may be obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture. Publications on fish and wildlife are available on request to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.



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